REMARKS

The Examiner has asserted that the claims are directed to purportedly patentably distinct inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121, requiring election to one of the two alleged groups of claims, namely claims 1-14 (Group I) and claims 15-20 (Group II). Applicants note that only claims 1-19 were originally pending in the application.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, consisting of claims 1-14 for prosecution in this application. Applicants have elected Group I in order to expedite prosecution of this application. This election is made without waiver, estoppel, or without prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications directed to subject matter of the canceled claims.

The foregoing amendment conforms this application to the Examiner's Restriction dated June 12, 2003. The undersigned would welcome a telephone call at the telephone number listed below if such would advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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